

WellBeing International

WBI Studies Repository

Fall 1989

GSRO Fall 1989

Follow this and additional works at: <https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/gulstarn>

Recommended Citation

"GSRO Fall 1989" (1989). *Gulf States Regional Office*. 5.
<https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/gulstarn/5>

This material is brought to you for free and open access by WellBeing International. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the WBI Studies Repository. For more information, please contact wbisr-info@wellbeingintl.org.





REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES • FALL 1989

Texas Spay/Neuter Bill Vetoed by Clements

More than 1.2 million pet animals are killed yearly by shelters in our region. Most of these deaths are the result of unplanned breeding of people's pets. The most effective way to reduce this wasteful killing of animals is to spay and neuter more animals in our communities.

During the last Texas legislative session, a bill was proposed to require the spaying and neutering of all animals adopted from shelters. This bill was originally suggested by the HSUS Gulf States Regional Office and was promoted by the Texas Humane Information Network (THIN). Rep. Bob Richardson was the bill's sponsor.

The HSUS, THIN, and other groups testified on behalf of the bill, which passed both houses on strong, favorable votes. As the bill was written, it would not have in-

volved any additional costs to local or state government. The cost of each spay/neuter operation would be borne by the person adopting the pet.

Nationwide, spay/neuter bills are being passed, with significant results. Many cities with mandatory shelter spay/neuter requirements have seen reductions of up to 50 percent in the number of unwanted animals handled over a given period of time. These types of reductions translate into sizable savings in tax dollars for the cities that do pay for their animal-shelter and -control operations.

Unfortunately, Gov. William Clements apparently was unaware of the economic benefits to his state and chose to veto the bill. The humane movement statewide was shocked *continued on page 2*

INSIDE

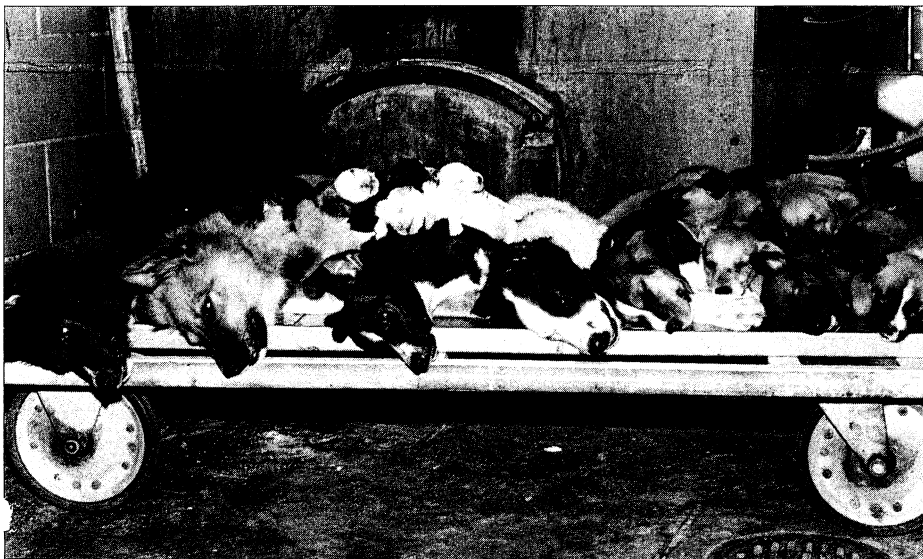
- State Parks Opened to Hunters
- Cockfighting Crackdown
- Shelter Boycotted
- Adopt-A-Teacher Program
- HSUS Annual Conference

Rattlesnake Roundups Investigated

Rattlesnake roundups have recently been criticized across the region by those who understand the importance of protecting all animals in the chain of life. Although rattlesnakes are regarded with fear by some people, they play an important role in the balance of nature.

A recent major rattlesnake roundup in Freer, Tex., was investigated by the GSRO. Thousands of snakes are rounded up to be slaughtered at such gruesome events. Snakes are chased out of their dens by pouring gasoline into them; the snakes' lungs are burned as a result. Once captured, the snakes are handled with constant abuse, deprivation, and outright cruelty.

The so-called snake handlers have very little knowledge of humane and safe snake handling. Snakes' mouths are sewn shut, and the snakes are then stacked dozens deep in barrels or piles waiting to be killed. Finally, they are beheaded and deep-fried for the hungry crowds to dine on. Often, snakes not *continued on page 3*



More than 1.2 million pet animals are euthanatized in the Gulf States region alone. An effective spay/neuter bill could significantly help reduce this number.



Many cities with mandatory shelter spay/neuter requirements have seen reductions of up to 50 percent in unwanted animals handled by animal shelters.

Spay/Neuter

continued from page 1

by his action. Since the bill was non-controversial and had no significant opposition, it had been felt the governor would not veto its passage as he had past humane legislation.

The GSRO will pursue this bill in the next session of the Texas legislature. We

believe its passage is absolutely necessary for the state to begin to bring pet over-population under control.

By the next full session, Texas will have elected a new governor. Everyone in the state is hopeful the governor's office will be filled by someone who is knowledgeable on environmental and animal issues and will make decisions with compassion and concern for all life. ■

State Parks Opened to Hunters To Manage Wildlife

In 1974, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission opened the Pedernales Falls State Park to hunters while simultaneously closing the park to all non-hunters. We can expect at least eight of our state parks to be opened this fall to such hunts for the sake of so-called wildlife management and sport.

This August, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will inform the public which parks have been chosen for these open hunts. A specific number of hunters will be chosen by random drawing and will pay \$40 for this dubious privilege.

In June 1989, the GSRO and the Fund For Animals sent petitions to our members

that urged Texas Parks and Wildlife to stop these hunts. It is our opinion the deer in our parks have become accustomed to humans by virtue of our year-round presence. Hunting such animals can be considered neither sporting nor ethical.

The HSUS needs your help in persuading Texas Parks and Wildlife to pursue non-lethal methods of wildlife management. Write or call your legislators informing them of your opposition to these hunts. Perhaps the state should re-examine the purpose of the parks system. After all, these lands were intended to provide an undisturbed environment for wildlife that all Texans can enjoy. ■

Crackdown on Cockfighting Across Region

Since March of this year, 34 cockfighters have been arrested and charged in two separate south Texas cockfight raids. These raids represent the culmination of a surveillance and information exchange among The HSUS, the Department of Public Safety, the Texas Rangers, county sheriffs, and the border patrol.

In Falfurrias, Tex., more than 100 people were detained at a cockfight raid led by the Texas Rangers. Twenty-four were eventually charged with various violations of state laws. The owner of the property was charged with keeping a gambling place; others were charged with promoting gambling. Both are third-degree felonies. Other charges incurred were gambling and cruelty to animals.

In Calallen, Tex., four men have pleaded guilty to cruelty to animals, and six others have pleaded not guilty to possession of a criminal instrument (cockfighting gaffs). Possession of a criminal instrument carries a maximum penalty of six months in county jail and a \$1000 fine.

The HSUS is continuing efforts to get stricter anti-cockfighting legislation passed in Texas, which would include charging spectators with misdemeanor offenses and permanently confiscating vehicles and equipment seized at cockfights.

Elsewhere around the region, the governor of Oklahoma has ordered the State Bureau of Investigation to look into illegal gambling at cockfights. The HSUS is hopeful that investigation will help end the now-legal sport of cockfighting.

In Louisiana, the Coalition of Louisiana Animal Activists (COLAA) and Louisiana Against Cockfighting (LAC) produced a musical record that tells the story of a young boy hiding his rooster to prevent it being taken to a cockfight. The record has been played on numerous radio stations throughout the state. COLAA and LAC are to be commended for keeping their ongoing fight against cockfighting alive through such innovative, persuasive ideas.

In light of these two positive steps, cockfighting will soon be recognized as the cruel and barbaric sport it is and made illegal in Louisiana and Oklahoma. ■



For decades, the human species has chosen to live in ways that pollute the air, soil, and water; destroy rain

forests and other wildlife habitat; and threaten the fragile existence of many species with which we share the earth. Can we restructure our way of living in order to preserve the integrity of our planet and safeguard the well-being of all creatures?

In Houston, Texas, this October, we invite you to confront crucial ecological issues and explore ways in which our attitudes and actions can change the destructive pattern of human stewardship.

Our pre-conference symposium, "Humane Sustainable Agriculture," offers a cross section of philosophers, practitioners, and promoters of innovative strategies for providing food in the 1990s. The outspoken John Robbins, author of *Diet for a New America*, will be our luncheon guest speaker for the symposium.

Author, activist, and philosopher Jeremy Rifkin is our conference keynote speaker. Dr. Amy Freeman Lee is our program moderator. HSUS Vice President Michael W. Fox and the Rev. Dr. Andrew Linzey of the Centre for the Study of Theology at the University of Essex (England) will examine the interrelated issues of environmental stewardship and living in harmony with the natural world.

A special slide presentation by whale biologist and whale-song expert extraordinaire Roger Payne and our perennially popular awards banquet will be the highlights of the conference's evening activities.

Houston's gracious Galleria complex offers some of the city's finest attractions. Why not come to the great Southwest with us in the fall? We'll want to see you there.

1989 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

THE WESTIN GALLERIA, HOUSTON, TEXAS

OCTOBER 26-28

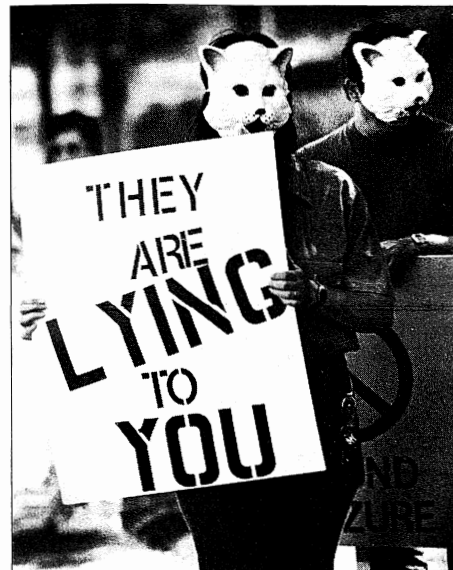
Shelter Boycotted for Selling Pets to Research

Animal activists in Shreveport, La., no longer take stray or abandoned animals to the Caddo Parish Animal Shelter. The shelter has a policy of selling dogs and cats to the Louisiana State University Medical Center (LSUMC) for use in experiments.

This past spring, two Caddo Parish animal-rights groups protested the sale of shelter dogs and cats to LSUMC. These activists felt that LSUMC had turned the local shelter into a "wholesale supply house for research subjects."

This debate has lingered since the parish decided, in 1987, to permit LSUMC to continue to buy dogs and cats which had been impounded. At that time, the medical center wanted to increase the number of cats purchased from the shelter from 30 to 50 per month. The shelter allowed the cats to be purchased for \$15 each—much less than the \$65 the medical center had been paying for each animal bred for research purposes.

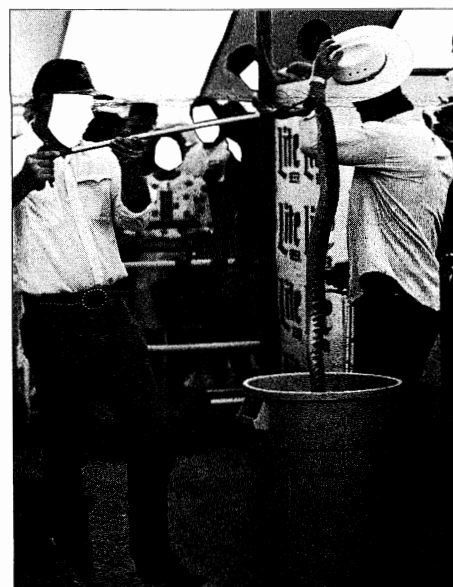
The protesters were not tackling the issue of animals in research. Their concern was that the researchers would be using animals that might have once been pets. They felt that, if the researchers had to use animals in their work, then LSUMC should use animals that had been raised



Nearly 30 demonstrators, some wearing cat masks, marched in front of the LSU Medical Center.

specifically for research.

The GSRO has worked closely with Louisiana groups, furnishing them with material and information to oppose release of shelter animals for research, so-called pound seizure.



Rattlesnakes collected in mass roundups receive little humane handling.

Rattlesnakes

continued from page 1

killed and eaten at one roundup will be shipped to another, without food or sustenance.

The HSUS has historically opposed all rattlesnake roundups. We have urged sponsoring organizations to switch to non-exploitative events and have tried to obtain legal protection for the reptile victims.

Unfortunately, until the public changes its attitude toward reptiles and snakes and begins to respect them as an integral and important part of the balance of nature, they will continue to be abused. We ask our members to avoid attending any event connected with rattlesnake roundups and to make their opposition known to local sponsors, news media, and sanctioning officials.

Adopt-A-Teacher in Gulf States

The HSUS's National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHEE, formerly NAAHE) Adopt-a-Teacher program is being promoted in the Gulf States region as a memorial to the late Bernie Weller, an HSUS field investigator for more than 26 years.

The newly formed Gulf States Humane Educators' Association (GSHEA) sent a special mailing to more than 600 organizations in June, followed by a telephone campaign, with the goal of adopting 1,000 teachers for the NAHEE Adopt-a-Teacher program. We want to involve as many animal-welfare organizations and patrons as possible.

Many organizations were not grasping the full potential of Adopt-a-Teacher. In addition to individual sponsorships, local groups could also initiate community-outreach programs to enhance their humane education efforts and fund-raising. We've prepared a presentation kit (complete with instructions, handouts, camera-ready ads, certificates, etc.) for use by local chairmen and women in contacting clubs, community organizations, and businesses. The kit emphasizes corporate sponsors who might adopt a number of teachers.

Workshops to train local Adopt-a-Teacher chairmen and women are also in the planning stage. I am the chairwoman of this training program, and I plan to work closely with GSHEA in fully developing this endeavor.

Anyone wishing assistance in establishing this program should call the GSRO. —Dorothy Weller

Mark your calendars now for
**The Gulf States Humane
Educators' Association Third Annual
Animal Protection and Education
Symposium,**
Tulsa Marriott,
Tulsa, Oklahoma,
May 26 & 27, 1990.

Watch for registration information in the Spring GSRO Newsletter.

REGISTRATION FORM

1989 Annual Conference
The Humane Society of the United States

The conference registration form is for one person or a couple. If more than one individual or couple are attending, please copy this form and fill out additional copies for each registrant/couple to ensure proper preregistration.

Please check appropriate box	Cost Per Person	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> HSUS Annual Conference Oct. 26-28 Includes general sessions, workshops, and awards banquet. (Select meal type below.) <input type="checkbox"/> Fish _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian _____	\$60	\$ ____
<input type="checkbox"/> Symposium on Humane Sustainable Agriculture Wednesday, Oct. 25 Includes luncheon	\$25	\$ ____
If you are unable to attend the entire conference, the fees per day and for the awards banquet are as follows:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, Oct. 26	\$20	\$ ____
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, Oct. 27	\$20	\$ ____
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Oct. 28 (Awards banquet not included)	\$10	\$ ____
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards banquet, Saturday evening (Select meal.) <input type="checkbox"/> Fish _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian _____	\$30	\$ ____
Total Enclosed		\$ ____

(Make checks payable to The HSUS: U.S. funds only. Cancellation fee of \$10 will be charged after Thursday, October 19.)

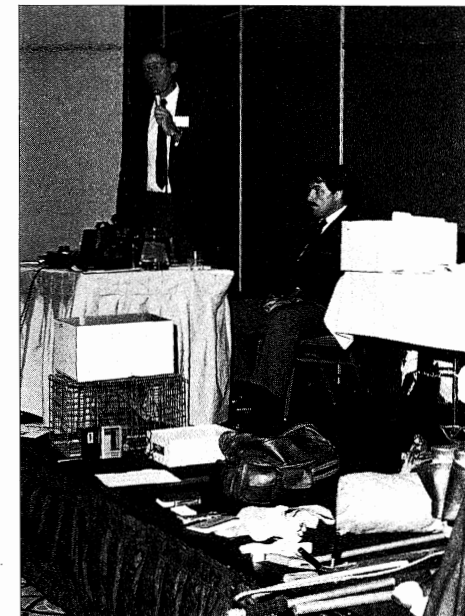
A hotel registration form will be mailed upon receipt of this form. You must make reservations directly with the hotel prior to Tuesday, October 3, 1989.

Name _____ PLEASE PRINT
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Complete and return this form with payment to **HSUS Conference,**
2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

GULF STATES MEMBERS

Don't miss this opportunity to attend an HSUS annual conference in your own region! Along with the scheduled program of symposium, lectures, and workshops, the conference will provide the unique opportunity to meet others concerned about animal welfare. Informal conversation and sharing of ideas, strategies, and methods will enrich and strengthen your experiences in animal protection. If you need a conference schedule, just write "Schedule Needed" on your completed registration form and mail it to The HSUS in Washington, D.C.



HOTEL INFORMATION

Westin Galleria room rates for the conference are: single, \$69, double, \$83.

TRAVEL NOTE

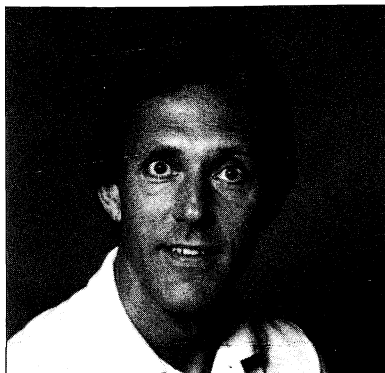
Continental Airlines and Eastern Airlines have been designated as official carriers for the Humane Society of the United States Annual Conference, October 25-29, 1989, in Houston, Texas. Travel on Bethesda has been designated official ticketing coordinator.

Continental and Eastern will offer 5 percent off of the lowest applicable fare (rules and restrictions apply); 50 percent off first-class fares; and 50 percent off full coach fares.

For discount fares, call toll-free 1-800-333-1225 or Continental/Eastern directly at 1-800-468-7022 (in continental United States or Canada).

Refer to Easy Access Number EZ 10P58.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT



by William Meade III

We are in serious trouble! In just the last ten years, the general public has become aware of the major ecological disasters that hang over our heads like a dark cloud. Globally, the destruction and extinction of animal life continues, day after day. A million acres of rain forest and its animals are being burned every day. Water, topsoil, and fossil fuels are coming closer and closer to depletion. The world population continues to grow at 80 million yearly, bringing even more pollution, death to animals, and stress to our world's ecosystem.

The problems are so severe, many wonder if there is a realistic chance to turn

the tide and help Mother Nature regain her balance. We must remember that these problems did not materialize in just the last ten—or even one hundred—years. They are the result of a gradual but steady evolution of humans into voracious consumers.

As our technology and economics have grown stronger, we have come to believe the more we consume, the better. Our consumption of everything seemed to fuel the economy and make the stock market buzz. Behind the scenes, ever greater quantities of oil have been pulled from the Earth; more and more cattle have been raised for food; more and more polluting automobiles have been built; and garbage landfills have grown to their limits.

Our exploitation and lack of respect for animal life and the environment did not emerge overnight. The recovery of our values and Earth's balance will also not happen overnight.

We must remember that the only way change takes place is in one human being at a time. The greatest movements in history began with one individual's idea and grew as each additional person became convinced of its rightfulness.

As individuals, we can change only ourselves, but that change is critical to the

survival of the world. Only if enough individuals make the changes necessary, will the world and its animal life have a chance.

As one person, I can begin to expand my reverence and respect for all life. I can conserve my use of all natural resources. I can recycle trash and buy humane, ecologically sound products. I can reduce or eliminate my meat consumption. I can plant a tree, and I can plant the idea of "reverence for life" in another individual's mind.

One person at a time, we can restore the animals' home and our home, which we call Earth, to its health and wholeness. ■

Reflect for a moment

HOW CAN I HELP ANIMALS EVEN WHEN
I NO LONGER SHARE THEIR WORLD?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States, your will can provide for animals after you're gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip code _____

Mail in confidence to: Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

■ **LOUISIANA**—Rep. Alphonse Jackson introduced a bill allowing shelters to turn over unclaimed animals to teaching and medical-research facilities. The bill stipulates that, after a brief waiting period in the shelter, suitable animals would be made ready for use by scientists for a small fee. The HSUS and Louisiana animal activists joined to defeat the bill. So much negative publicity and mail was received by the Louisiana State University Medical Center that Jackson withdrew the legislation.

■ **TEXAS**—Late last spring, city commissioners of Amarillo took a firm stand against the use of shelter animals for research purposes. They rejected the unanimous recommendations of the ani-

mal-control board and decided to discontinue sale of shelter animals outside the city limits to circumvent sale of such animals to research facilities. A petition with 7,200 signatures protesting the animals' sale was presented at the commissioners' meeting. The GSRO assisted the animal-protection activists of Amarillo and applauds their victory.

Eight animal-welfare bills were introduced during the last state legislative session, and two were passed into law. One calls for the establishment of minimum humane care standards for horses used in commercial businesses. The second amended a shelter-standards bill, extending its standards to counties with a population of 75,000 or more. ■

The Regional Report is a publication of

**The Humane Society of the United States
Gulf States Regional Office
6262 Weber Road, Suite 305
Corpus Christi, TX 78413
(512) 854-3142
William R. Meade III, Director**

The HSUS Gulf States Regional Office serves Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. All contributions made to The HSUS Gulf States Regional Office are tax-deductible. The office operates Monday through Friday and is closed on federal holidays.

© 1989 by The HSUS. All rights reserved.